

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on November 24th, 2006
SGW Campus H 769 10:00 am

PRESENT: Mr. Keith Pruden, Chair, Ms. Beverley-Ann Morris, Secretary, Ms. A. Arrizza, Ms. C. Boujaklian, Ms. D. Caputo, Mr. R. Côté, Mr. W. Curran, Ms. M. Drew, Mr. A. Ferrero, Dr. S. M. Graub, Ms. I. Lacelle, Ms. L. Lipscombe, Mr. O. Moran, Ms. A. Novoa, Mr. M. Small, Ms. L. Stanbra, Mr. N. Stewart, Ms. B. St- Laurent, Ms. L. Toscano, Mr. M. Venema, Ms. R. Wangechi, Ms. R. R. Zhu

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Mr. N. Bleser, Ms. J. de Cubellis, Ms. K Hedrich, Dr. M. Mulrenna, Ms. K. Sheahan

ABSENT: Mr. R. Schieir

DELEGATES: Ms. J. Beaudoin, Ms. A. Bowen

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made Mr. Côté and seconded by Mr. Stewart.

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

The Chair announced that Ms. Sheahan is unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. She has extended an invitation to Council for a tour of the new fitness center.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF October 27TH, 2006

Mr. Curran requested the minutes reflect the following changes: On page 4, the following sentence is to be deleted "**The worst score was for the Library's collection, which was expected.**" *In fact, the worst score was related to space, not collections. For the faculty, the biggest problem is indeed the collection but for undergraduates, the collections prove satisfactory.* On the same page, 6 lines further down, references to "**printing electronic journals**" should read "**print and/or electronic journals**." The last sentence on that page reads, "**Mr. Curran added ...it is a good problem to have.**" Add: "**because it reflects the University's growth.**" Finally, on page 5, 2nd paragraph, 6 lines down, should read: "**The science collection located at the Vanier Library is, for the most part, available electronically. Thus students' use of the Vanier Library tends to be very different from how the Webster Library is used, which houses the humanities and social sciences material, much of which is not available electronically.**" Mr. Moran requested the following changes to the minutes: On page 6: "**... the database was completed in August however there have been some technical problems**" should be changed to "**it has been sent to web communications and we are waiting for it to be put onto the internet**". Mr. Côté requested the following changes: '**the composition of the subcommittee should be**

taken from members of CCSL. Also, Mr. Côté's title is **Associate Vice- President Enrolment and Student Services**. Finally, in the last paragraph of page 9 the word **uncharacteristically** should be replaced by **exceptionally**. A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Dr. Graub and seconded by Mr. Ferrero.

The motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Chair advised that Ms. Drew has volunteered to Chair Budget & Funding subcommittee; therefore meetings can now be scheduled.

Mr. Stewart made a motion to add one undergraduate student to each CCSL subcommittee. He explained that the idea for this motion arose in a meeting with all undergraduate students during which they were trying to decide which students would be members on CCSL subcommittees. They realized that only 4 undergraduate students could sit on the subcommittees and felt that amending the composition of the two subcommittees allows all undergraduates students to be on a subcommittee. Dr. Shaver asked whether in the past there had been enough committees for all students to participate on. Mr. Stewart stated that this was not the case, and as such it is a longstanding problem to which student reps are seeking a new resolution. He also stated that there is currently a lot of competition amongst undergraduate students to sit on CCSL and he hopes that this will continue. However, if student participation were to decline in future, the motion can be amended accordingly. Council clarified that only the Special projects and awards committees would be affected by this change. In response to Council's questions the Chair stated that the Housing and Job committee does exist however, the committee has not met in the past two years. He also indicated that he is concerned that increasing the membership might increase scheduling conflicts and there will be an increase in the amount of material produced for members on the Special Projects committee. The Chair notified council that adding another member to the special projects committee would not affect decisions already made by the committee. Council then proceeded to vote on the motion. The following motion was made by Mr. Stewart and seconded by Ms. Novoa:

BIRT the composition of the CCSL Special Projects committee and the CCSL Awards committee be amended to include one additional undergraduate student to each committee.

The motion was carried unanimously

In response to a question raised at the last meeting concerning remote access to library material, Mr. Curran reiterated that there is always the possibility of technical difficulties preventing access. Anyone trying to access the library's resources from home would be required to go through the library's proxy in order to be authenticated as a user. When specific bibliographic records refer to articles published in specific journals, the full text of these articles are not necessarily available online. There are some articles available in full text online and an individual who has gone through the library's proxy will have access to them. Mr. Curran added that this fall the library extended the hours of

operation for the online reference service to 11:00 am to 7:00 pm Mondays-Thursdays. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays the service is available from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. This service provides immediate assistance to users working from outside the library premises.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

The Chair reminded Council that Ms. Sheahan was in Saskatoon and as such she will report on the new fitness facility at the next meeting. In the meantime, she has extended an invitation to all members of CCSL to visit the new fitness center in the EV building on December 6th or 7th after 3:00 pm. The Chair asked Council to e-mail Ms. Morris with their preferred date to tour the facility. Mr. Small asked when the facility would open officially to which Mr. Côté replied that it is likely that the dates were changed due to unforeseen variables that can occur during construction projects. He felt that the current estimate for the facility to be operational is January 2007. The Chair added that Ms. Sheahan had informed him that there were delays due to concerns of noise from the construction occurring during class hours. Both the Chair and Mr. Côté agreed that Ms. Sheahan would be in a better position to answer Council's questions pertaining to the details of the funding and the administration of the facility. Ms. Sheahan is also beginning the drive to rebuild the athletics facility at Loyola. Ms. Boujaklian offered to enquire about an official opening date and report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Moran informed Council that the web designer is ready to set up the website for the Healthy Campus Initiative and it has been suggested that the site be on the Dean of Students website as an extension of that website. He reminded Council, especially to student members, that after they had reviewed the current database they could inform him of any additions they would like to include. He also stated that the committee is seeking new student members and he invited student representatives who are interested to join, to which Mr. Small expressed an interest. He advised Council of ideas that the committee would consider undertaking in order to achieve their mission and they include: a farmers market on campus, designated relaxation space, and a "take the stairs" campaign. Council discussed the take the stairs campaign and agreed that there would be more support for the campaign if the stairwells were made more visible by improved signage and the addition of artwork on the walls. Mr. Moran stated that the subcommittee would decide on how and when to implement such campaigns. Ms. Zhu volunteered for the subcommittee and the Chair agreed that Ms. Lussier would coordinate subcommittee's next meeting. Dr. Shaver remarked that she felt it was impressive that the Healthy Campus Initiative is unique to the university and she commended Mr. Moran on his efforts. Ms. Boujaklian added that there is currently a renovation project aimed at improving the Hall building including increased signage, as well as improvements to the escalators. Council began discussing the possibility of using student artwork in the stairwells in similar fashion as the VA building and the Chair suggested that the issue be discussed in detail within the subcommittee.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Ms. Stanbra reminded student representatives that the deadline to apply online for in course bursary is Dec 22nd.

The Chair requested an update on the procedure for and the standing of the recall situation at the CSU, stating that it seemed unclear whom a petition would be submitted to. Ms. Novoa informed that the petition would be submitted to the CEO, who has already been appointed; however, at the moment there was no update on the number of signatures on the petition other than what has been printed in the student newspapers. Ms. Novoa requested an update on Mezzanine space issue. The Chair replied that there are no further details on the issue. He stated that he would enquire and report back to Council.

Mr. Stewart informed Council that ASFA formed a subcommittee to look into the issue of student life at Loyola. One of the issues brought up was the lack of areas for students to place posters at Loyola. Mr. Small asked what is the possibility of increasing poster space. The Chair responded that there are two issues with this request; firstly there is the possibility of placing additional bulletin boards in authorized areas. There are also safety issues inherent with the authorization of non-enclosed poster space that the fire safety officers would address. The CSU would be required to find out who controls the space in those areas and what procedures are to be followed. The second issue is regarding the budget for the posters. We would need to know where the funding would come from. Mr. Small asked if CCSL could fund the boards. The Chair responded that if there is money left over from special projects and if Council and the Special Projects committee agreed, perhaps money could be allocated to the bulletin boards. The Chair agreed that the student reps could come back with a list of potential locations at Loyola. Ms. Novoa asked who removes expired posters from bulletin boards and if student groups were to hire someone to remove posters, which departments would be involved in that process. Mr. Pruden informed that all umbrella associations who authorized the posters should remove expired ones. The Dean of Students office has a person designated to remove expired posters. He also stated that the official policy is under the jurisdiction of the Senate, thus university administration is nominally responsible; the Dean of Students is responsible for disciplining when it comes to the policy. Ms. Novoa felt that there is not enough supervision of the posters and she would like to see more regulation of posters. She will try to come up with ideas on how to address the issue. Mr. Côté suggested that perhaps CCSL could benefit from examining the results of surveys that have had an impact on student life. There are two particular studies that may be of interest to Council, the first is the National Survey on Student Engagement and it assesses how students engage in university life. This is the first time that the university has participated in the survey, which has over a million student respondents. The other survey is the Undergraduate Study consortium. It is a consortium of eight Canadian universities. A section of that survey deals with student life and perhaps the results of that section can also be presented at CCSL and offer ideas on how to manage some student life issues. Mr. Côté offered to invite the Director of Institutional Planning to present the highlights of the survey as they relate to student life.

Ms. Zhu advised that there is currently a problem finding housing for international and exchange students because most rented premises require a one-year lease. She asked what the university could do to assist these students. Council discussed the matter in further detail and it was agreed that certain things could be looked into to help resolve the issue. Mr. Small suggested improving communication by getting information to students through the portal. Ms. Stanbra suggested contacting university alumni seek their assistance temporarily housing students. She stated that the idea has worked in the past. Dr. Shaver suggested informing all faculties when there is a crisis so that each faculty can try to find housing for their students. Mr. Côté suggested inviting the Vice Provost International, Ms. Liselyn Adams, to speak on the issue. Perhaps there could be a joint effort among the four faculties. Mr. Venema noted that international students share similar needs as married graduate students and other universities make provisions for their special needs. Ms. Drew stated that the university is aware and recognizes that graduate students needs are different. The university is trying to build something to fill the housing needs of all students. Ms. Beaudoin stated that the "stay home" program was successful and staff is also a good resource for temporary housing. Mr. Côté clarified that the office of the Vice-Provost International is not responsible for procuring the service for students. Her office would be responsible for developing protocols for plans to solve the issue. Ms. Zhu noted that as a volunteer at the ISO she knows that at the beginning of the semester the ISO has workshops for students to help find a place to stay. Students arrive with luggage expecting to find a place to stay and are disappointed. The ISO is thinking of finding short-term program where students can stay at a hotel or motel for a few days after their arrival to the city until they find an apartment. Ms. St-Laurent noted that the ISO advisors are well aware of this problem and she feels there is need for a concerted effort to find a solution. The ISO office has made some arrangements with the YMCA for short-term housing. Ms. Drew informed that the resolution to this problem is in the long-term plan for the university. There will be some residences downtown, the Grey Nuns building will become a temporary residence as of fall of 2007 with capacity for approximately 210 students. These residences are considered temporary for the next five or six years until the rest of the university plans are developed. There may be an extension of the term of the residences but it cannot be definitive at this point. The university is looking at alternate locations for residences including Loyola.

Mr. Small stated that CISA is the best international students association at doing activities with their students. The major setback for the student association is funding. The association receives approximately 10 thousand dollars annually to operate and the money is administered through the ISO. If CCSL could invest in the International Students Association it would be the best investment for the Concordia. Mr. Stewart stated that one of the reasons he is not in residence is that he found Loyola inaccessible after hours. There is no transportation out to Loyola after 1:00 am except for taking a taxi. He also felt that the meal plan was lacking in options for vegetarian students. If another residence were being developed he would appreciate that both a downtown location and better options for meal plans be considered. Mr. Venema suggested extending the hours of the shuttle bus service or setting up a phone line to a transport company in order to provide students with options of getting out to Loyola late at night. Ms. Zhu thanked Council for discussing and sharing concerns. She stated that CISA is

struggling with the issue of funding and that she would like to set up a presentation on the issue for the next semester.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair requested a name for the additional student member to be added to the Special Projects committee. Council agreed that Ms. Zhu would join the committee.

Mr. Small asked if there was an update on the Upper Crust/Tim Horton's opening in the lobby of the Hall building. He asked when it would be opened again as the closed cafeteria on the 7th floor reduces options for students. The Chair agreed to ask Auxiliary Services and report back next meeting.

Dr. Shaver congratulated Ms. Lipscombe on the efforts of the Digital Store, which is helpful to both students and faculty. She stated that again the university seems to be leading in terms of web services available to students. Ms. Lipscombe stated that she would mention this to her staff as they appreciate all feedback.

Mr. Stewart informed that ASFA would attempt obtaining accreditation, which means they will be legally recognized as sole reps of all Arts & Science Students. The group will be doing this during the months of January and February 2007. As one of the CEOs of the drive, Mr. Stewart is prepared to answer any questions Council may have.

Mr. Moran asked whether all the non-student positions on standing subcommittees have been filled. The Chair replied that they were except for the awards committee and the Housing and Job Bank (HOJO) committee. He added that the HOJO committee would be discussed next semester, explaining that the committee did not meet last year because Council never received the submissions to process the grant. Ms. Novoa has approached the Chair and she already has the necessary financial reports and he expects the committee to meet next semester.

Mr. Venema informed Council that the MFA program has a fund raising silent auction promoting student artists. He will forward the information to the CCSL Secretary

8. NEXT MEETING

January 26th, 2007, at 10:00 am in room H-769

9. TERMINATION OF THE MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Mr. Moran and seconded by Mr. Stewart.

The motion was carried unanimously